Diabetics in the Country

3679. SHRI KHAGEN DAS : Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are more than twenty million diabetics in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to control this new emerging epidemic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) According to Indian council of Medical Research (ICMR), the estimated number of diabetic patients in the country is 25 million. Roughly 10% of this is stated to be youth onset diabetes of the young.

(b) The reasons are attributed to population ageing, unhealthy diets, obesity, sedentary life style etc.

(c) Diabetes treatment is done at all levels in the rural health care delivery system and urban health care institutions. A Pilot Project on strengthening of Bio-chemical laboratories and quality assurance was initiated in 1990-2000 in the States of Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal & Punjab. Besides, Central Health Education Bureau(CHEB) has trategic/programmes including use of powerful electronic media to spread 'Health' messages about diabetes.

Manufacturing and marketing of spurious drugs

3680. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA:

PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the continuous manufacturing and marketing of spurious drugs in the country;

(b) if so, whether any study has been made by Government to assess the situation and to identify the manufacturers of the sub-standard drugs and the *modus operandi* of marketing their products;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Government are aware of the problem of the manufacture, sale and distribution of spurious drugs, this is a clandestine activity indulged in by some unscrupulous and anti-social persons.

(b) to (d) No specific study has been made by Government in this regard. However, the Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare has constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of DGHS on July 18,2001 associating members from Industry, Trade, Drugs Regulatory Officials and Public representatives to go into all aspects of the menace of Spurious drugs and suggest remedial measures.

Under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules thereunder, State Governments have been empowered to enforce quality of drugs including check on manufacture or sale of spurious drugs. The said Act was amended in 1982 to provide for specific definition of spurious drugs and severe penalties extending to life imprisonment have been prescribed.

State Governments have been advised from time to time to provide adequate enforcement machinery and drug testing facilities and to keep strict surveillance over the inter-state movement of spurious drugs. Facilities of Central Government testing labs have also been made available to the States for testing of drugs besides financial assistance provided to them to augment and strengthen their testing capabilities.

The State Drugs Controllers have been advised to take the following measures for curbing the incidence of spurious drugs:-

(i) Constitution/reactivation of State Drug Advisory Committees in which various trade and industry association as well as consumer association should find representation.

(ii) Establishment of separate intelligence-cum-legal machinery with police assistance.

(iii) Training to be provided to selected Officials of Drug Control Administration in the modalities of intelligence work, prosecution etc, in respect of Spurious/Counterfeit drugs.

(iv) To ensure speedy analysis of drugs samples by establishing own state level drug testing facilities.

(v) State Drugs Control Authorities to be cautious while approving licences for drug products to ensure that "look alike" products are not encouraged.

(vi) To develop efficient communication facilities and recall procedures.

(vii) To undertake surveillance of suspected dealers.

(viii) To engage experienced counsel for fighting spurious drug cases.

(ix) To obtain Cooperation of Pharmaceutical Industry by regular interaction with them.

(x) To collect survey samples under National Survey Quality Evaluation of Drug (NSQED) programme.

Association of Pharmaceutical Industry and All India Organisation of Chemists and Druggists have been asked to take necessary initiative to collectively combat the menace of spurious drugs.

The problem of manufacture and sale of spurious drugs and the need to ensure its checking has been specifically explained to State Health Ministers during the meeting of Central Council of Health & Family Welfare.

Health Facilities for People Living below Poverty Line

3681. SHRI MOOL CHAND MEENA:

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of measures taken by Government for providing health facilities to those living below poverty line; and

(b) how far these measures have been effective to achieve the desired objectives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Government is making every effort to achieve better health care particularly for the poor and disadvantaged through variety of measures including implementation of National Health Programmes such as Malaria, TB, Leprosy, Blindness and AIDS, establishment of vast rural infrastructure and augmentation of medical manpower. Services at the health facilities are provided free to persons below the poverty level. National Illness Assistance Fund has also been set up to provide financial assistance to poor patients.

As a result of these measures Small Pox and Guineaworm are considered as having been eradicated. Polio is on the verge of being eradicated. Leprosy, Kala-azar and filariasis can be expected to be eliminated in the forseeable future. There has also been a substantial drop in the infant mortality rate. Expectancy of life has also increased.